

AMAR  
CHITRA  
KATHA

Vol. 671 Rs 25

# The Cowherd of Alawi

— Buddhist Tales



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India

IBH

# The Cowherd of Alawi and Other Buddhist Tales

Gautama, as we all know, left home to find a way to eradicate human misery. He became Buddha, the enlightened one, when one day in a flash the truth dawned on him as he sat meditating under a Bodhi tree in Gaya.

He came back with practical solutions which even a lay-man could adopt. Those who followed him had to first accept and comprehend the four Noble truths —

that worldly existence is full of misery;

that desire and attachment are the causes of worldly existence;

that worldly existence could be ended by keeping out desire and attachment.

that there is a way to do this.

The path he advocated was the well-known eight-fold path. Right speech, right action and right means of livelihood to achieve control on the physical plane; right exertion, right-mindedness and right meditation to achieve mental strength and right resolution and right point of view for intellectual development. That these guidelines, when implemented, bring peace of mind is borne out by the Buddhist tales that have come down to us. A few such tales have been included in this Chitra Katha.

The last tale in this book is a Zen Buddhist tale from Japan.

Script: Subba Rao

Art Work: Dilip Kadam



## AMAR CHITRA KATHA :

*The Route to Your Roots*

Over 80 million copies have been sold so far

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# THE COWHERD OF ALAWI



IT WAS THE EVE OF THE DAY BUDDHA AND HIS MONKS WERE TO PASS THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF ALAWI. A COWHERD OF THE VILLAGE WAS OUT SEARCHING FOR ONE OF HIS COWS THAT HAD STRAYED FROM THE HERD.

ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT HE SEARCHED BUT COULD NOT FIND HER. SOON IT WAS MORNING. THE COWHERD WAS IN A QUANDARY.

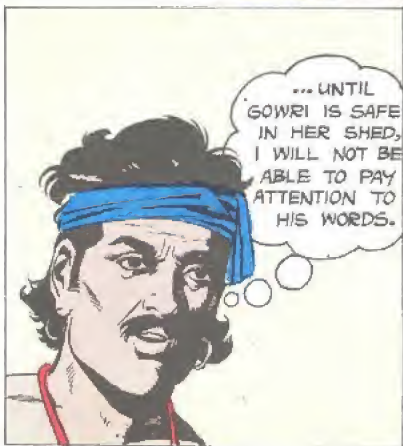
WHAT SHALL I DO?  
UNLESS I TURN  
BACK NOW...



...I WILL NOT BE  
ABLE TO LISTEN TO  
THE WORDS OF THE  
ENLIGHTENED ONE.  
AND YET...



...UNTIL  
GOWRI IS SAFE  
IN HER SHED,  
I WILL NOT BE  
ABLE TO PAY  
ATTENTION TO  
HIS WORDS.

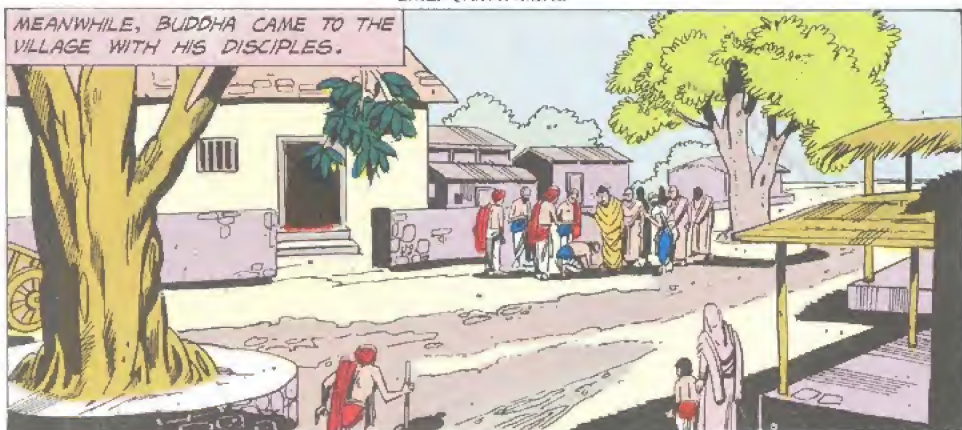


GOWRI WILL HAVE  
TO BE FOUND BEFORE  
I GO TO THE  
TEACHER.





MEANWHILE, BUDDHA CAME TO THE VILLAGE WITH HIS DISCIPLES.



THE VILLAGERS SERVED THEM FOOD...



...AND LATER ASSEMBLED TO HEAR BUDDHA SPEAK.

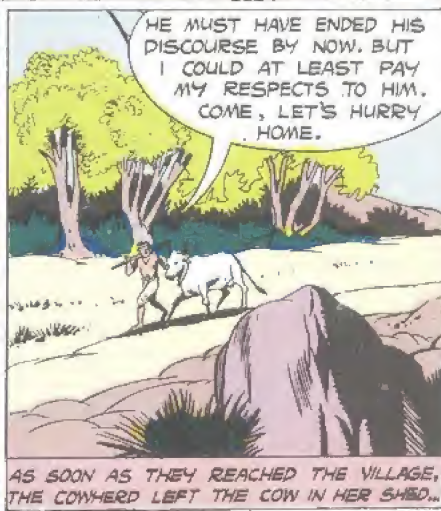
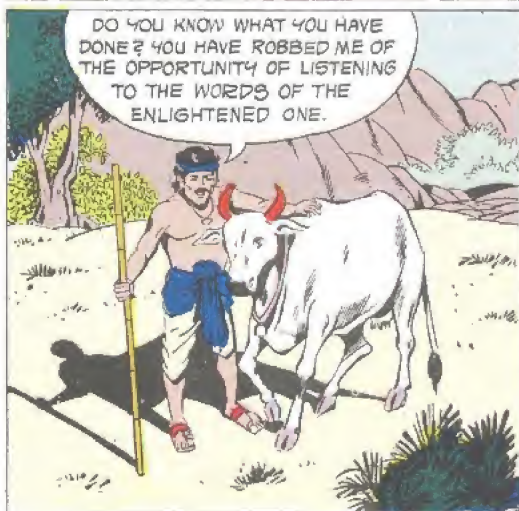


SO BUDDHA WAITED.



THE COWHERD, MEANWHILE, HAD STILL NOT FOUND HIS COW.

SHE COULDN'T HAVE STRAYED THIS FAR. YET ...



AS SOON AS THEY REACHED THE VILLAGE, THE COWHERD LEFT THE COW IN HER SHED...



...AND WITHOUT WAITING TO HAVE EVEN A CUP OF WATER, WENT STRAIGHT TO THE MEETING.

AH! THE TEACHER IS STILL HERE. IT WAS A GOOD THING I DID NOT STOP TO EAT SOMETHING BEFORE COMING.



OH! IF ONLY I DIDN'T FEEL SO HUNGRY. WELL...



PLEASE WAIT.



IS THERE ANY FOOD LEFT?

THERE IS, SIR.



THEN PLEASE SERVE THIS MAN SOME.





ONLY WHEN HE BEGAN EATING DID THE COWHERD  
REALIZE HOW HUNGRY AND THIRSTY HE WAS.



HE WASHED HIS HANDS...



...AND WENT BACK TO THE MEETING  
FEELING REFRESHED.





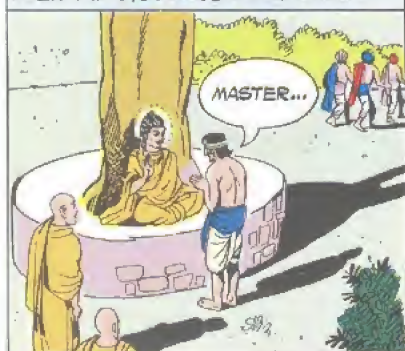
AS SOON AS HE WAS SEATED,  
BUDDHA BEGAN TO SPEAK.



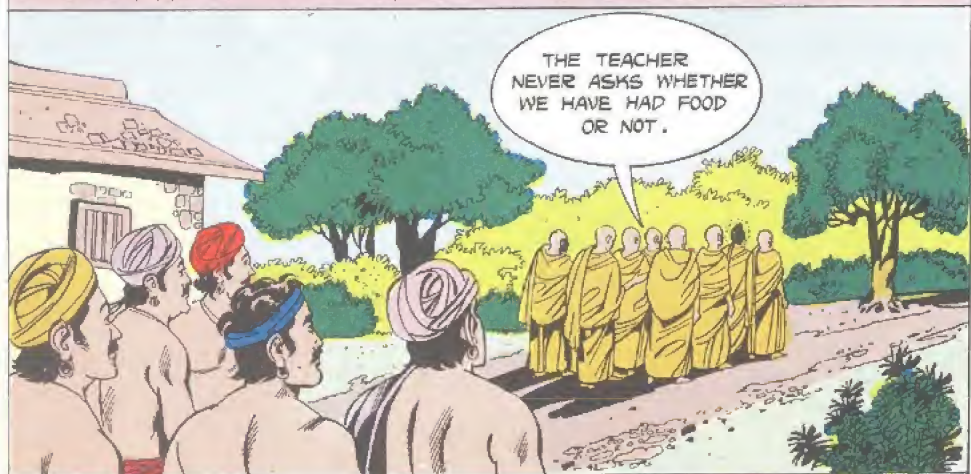
THE COWHERD HEARD HIM IN RAPT  
ATTENTION.



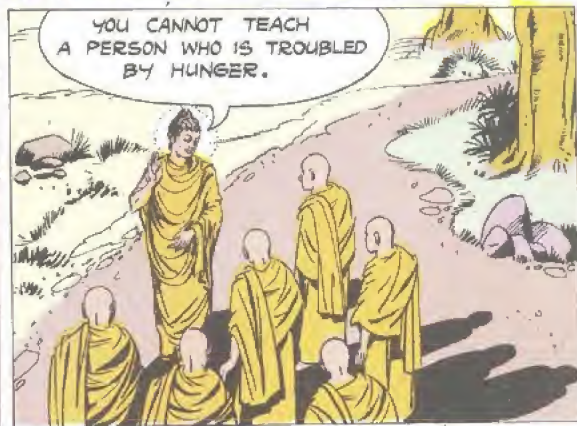
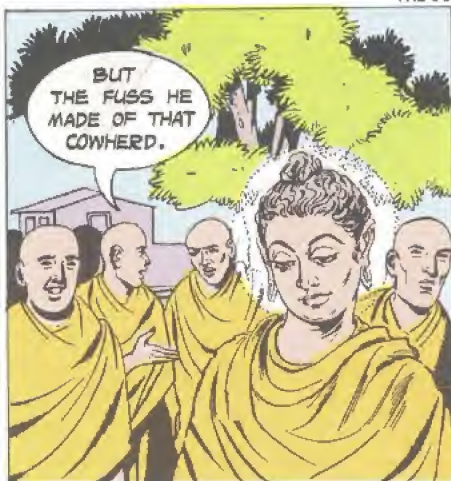
WHEN THE DISCOURSE WAS OVER—



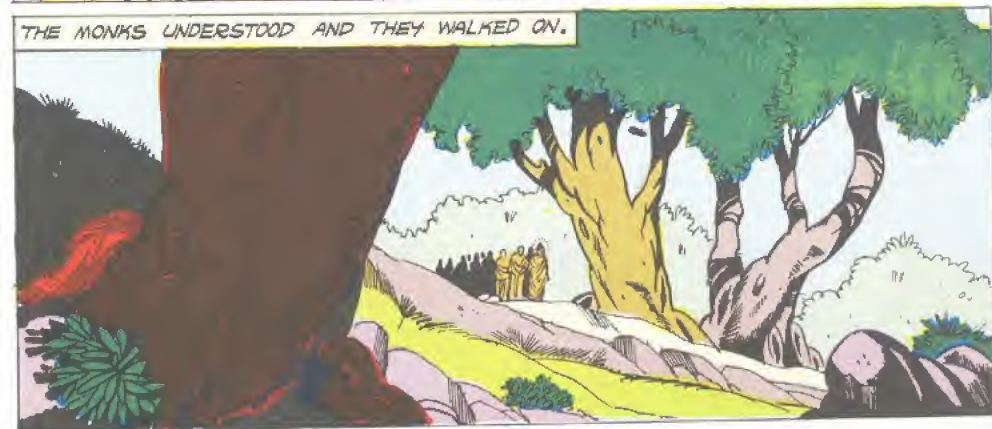
AS BUDDHA AND HIS MONKS TOOK LEAVE OF THE VILLAGERS AND WALKED ON—



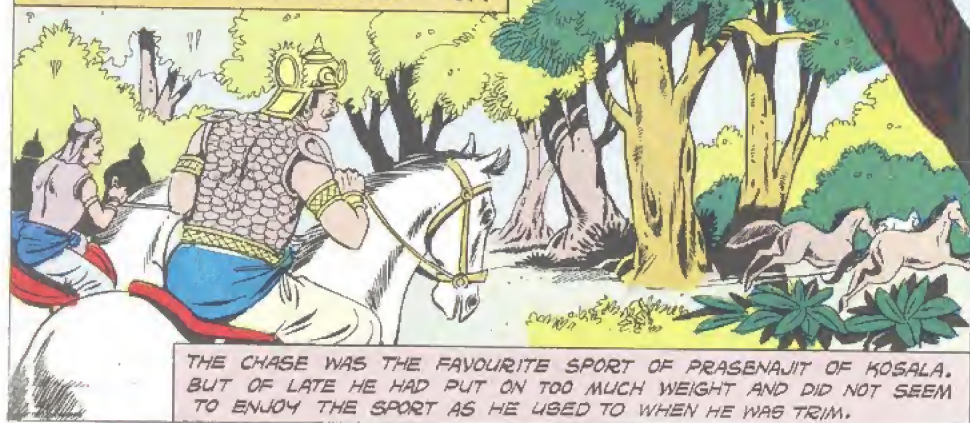




THE MONKS UNDERSTOOD AND THEY WALKED ON.



# THE PATH OF MODERATION



THE CHASE WAS THE FAVOURITE SPORT OF PRASENAJIT OF KOSALA. BUT OF LATE HE HAD PUT ON TOO MUCH WEIGHT AND DID NOT SEEM TO ENJOY THE SPORT AS HE USED TO WHEN HE WAS TRIM.

ALL HE WANTED NOW WAS TO GET BACK TO THE PALACE AND FOOD.



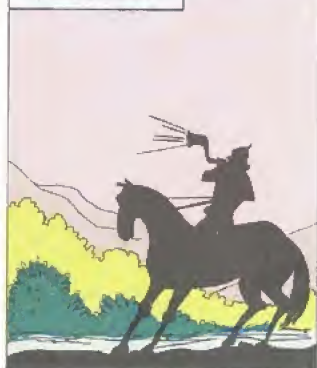
BLOW THE HORN, SUDARSHANA. WE ARE GOING BACK.

SO SOON, MAHARAJ? ARE YOU TIRED?

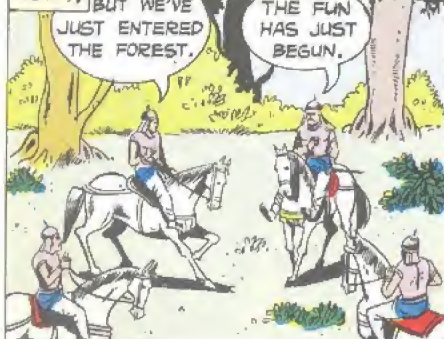
THE KING ANSWERED HIS NEPHEW'S QUESTION WITH AN ANGRY GLARE.



THE YOUTH QUIETLY OBEYED THE COMMAND.



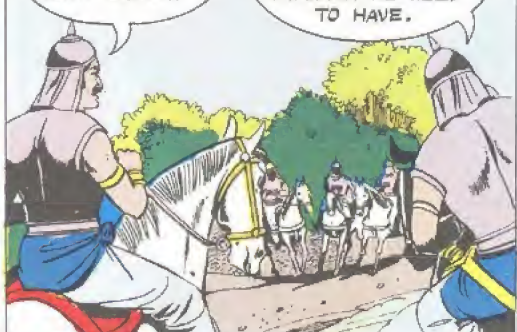
WHEN THEY HEARD THE BLAST OF THE HORN, THE KING'S MEN WERE NOT TOO HAPPY, BUT WE'VE JUST ENTERED THE FOREST.



THE FUN HAS JUST BEGUN.

THE FUN HAS JUST BEGUN.

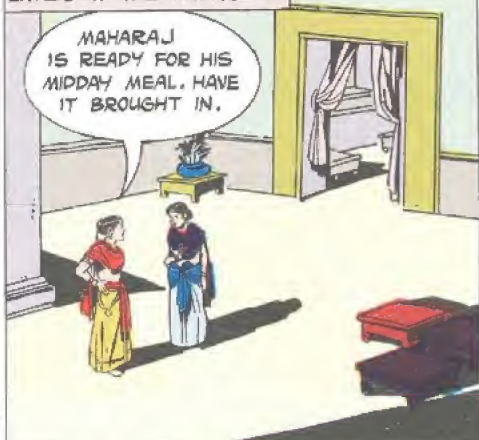
THESE DAYS OUR KING SEEMS TO TIRE VERY EASILY.



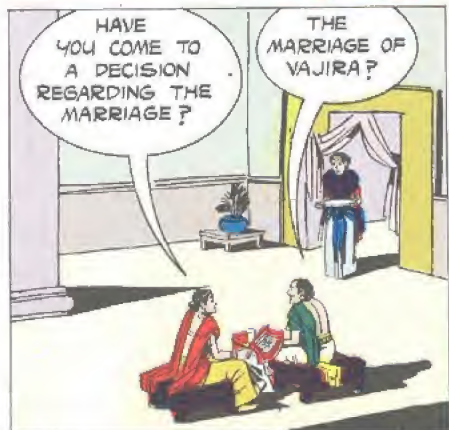
YOU ARE RIGHT. HE NO LONGER HAS THE STAMINA HE USED TO HAVE.

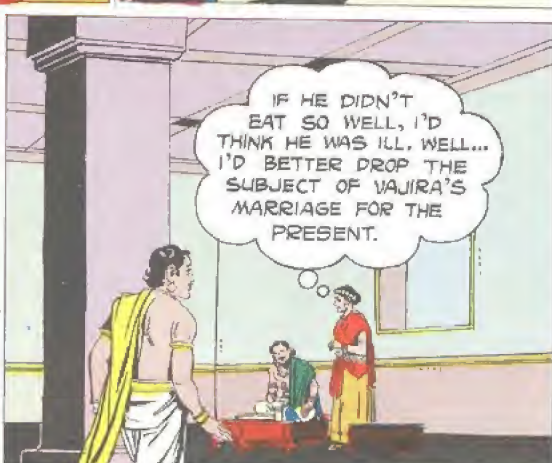
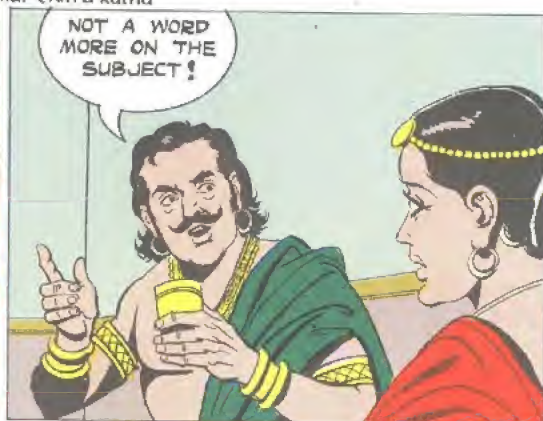


LATER AT THE PALACE—



THE QUEEN HERSELF SERVED THE KING  
THE FIRST COURSE.







JUST THEN SUDARSHANA WALKED IN.

MAHARAJ, PEOPLE HAVE ASSEMBLED AT JETAVANA. BUDDHA WILL BEGIN HIS DISCOURSE ANY MOMENT.

I AM READY.

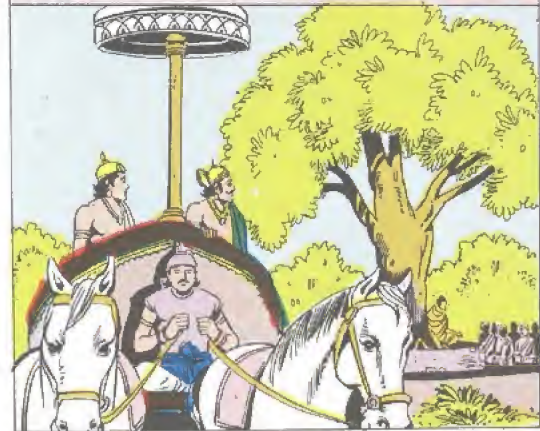


COME, LET'S GO.



THE KING DROVE TO JETAVANA...

...STOPPED THE CHARIOT A FEW YARDS AWAY FROM THE PLACE WHERE THE ENLIGHTENED ONE SAT...



...WALKED UP TO HIM...



... AND SALUTED HIM.



AS SOON AS PRASENAJIT WAS SEATED, BUDDHA BEGAN HIS DISCOURSE.



THE KING FELT DROWSY AFTER THE HEAVY MEAL.



HE HAD TO KEEP PINCHING HIMSELF FROM TIME TO TIME...



... TO KEEP AWAKE.



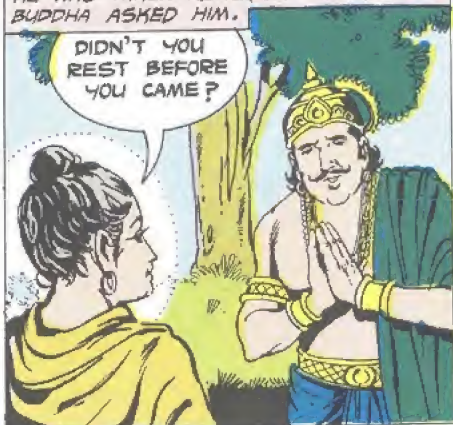
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCOURSE, PRASENAJIT WAS THE LAST TO GO UP TO THE TEACHER.





HE WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THE QUESTION  
BUDDHA ASKED HIM.

DIDN'T YOU  
REST BEFORE  
YOU CAME?



REVERED ONE,  
I... I ALWAYS FEEL  
UNCOMFORTABLE  
AFTER A MEAL.



YOU MUST BE  
OVEREATING  
THEN.

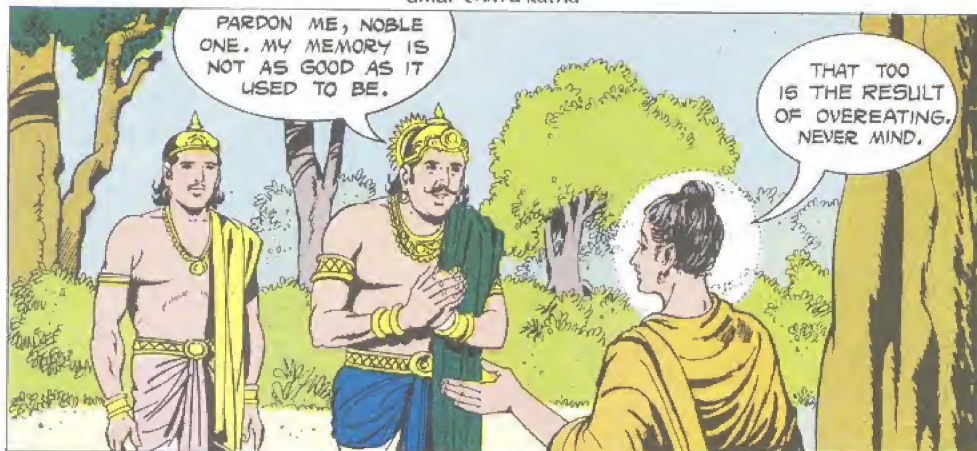
A MAN WHO EATS TOO  
MUCH, SPENDS HIS TIME  
IN SLEEP AND LIES AND  
ROLLS ABOUT LIKE  
AN OVERFED HOG,  
WILL NEVER BE FREED  
FROM THE CHAIN OF  
REBIRTH.



AS THE KING LOWERED HIS HEAD IN SHAME—

YOU HAVE TO OBSERVE  
MODERATION IN EATING.  
MEMORIZE THIS VERSE  
AND SAY IT TO YOURSELF  
WHEN YOU SIT DOWN  
TO EAT.

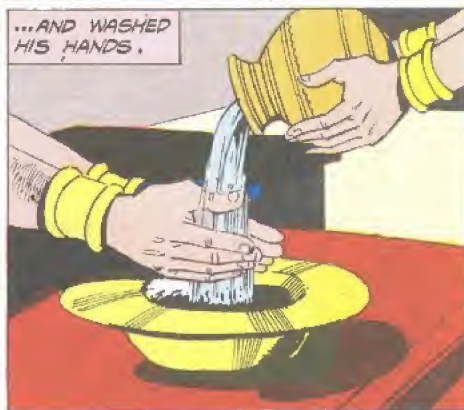
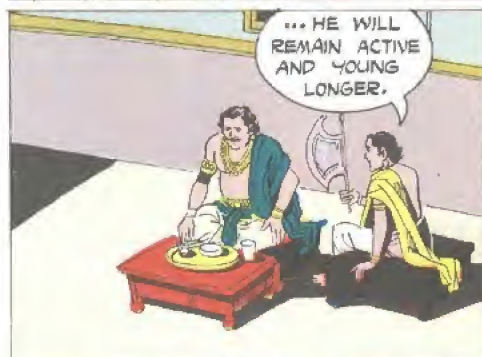




THE FOLLOWING DAY —







AS SUDARSHANA CONCLUDED THE VERSE, THE KING DROPPED THE MORSEL OF FOOD...



A FEW WEEKS LATER —





LATER, IN THE COURSE OF A CHASE —



FASTER...  
FASTER...



AH!  
I'VE GOT  
HIM!

BACK AT THE PALACE —



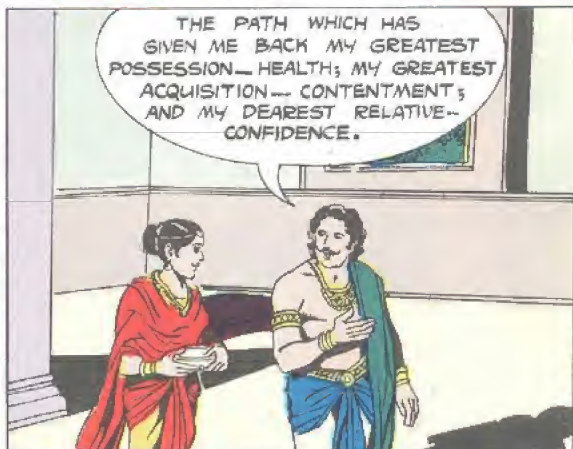
I HAD A WONDERFUL  
TIME, WE MUST HAVE  
CAPTURED OVER FIFTY  
WILD HORSES.



MAHARAJ, I AM SO HAPPY  
THAT YOU ARE ONCE AGAIN  
CHEERFUL, CONSIDERATE  
AND CONTENTED.



YOU MUST THANK  
BUDDHA. HE SHOWED  
ME THE PATH OF  
MODERATION.



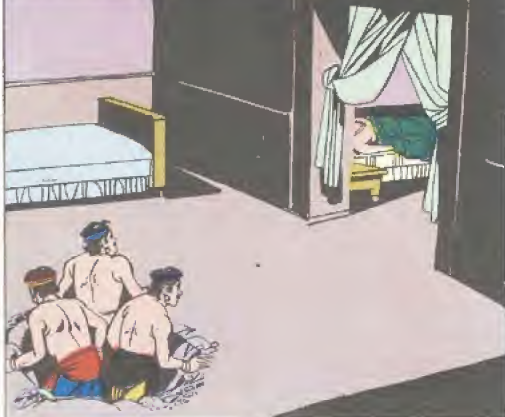
THE PATH WHICH HAS  
GIVEN ME BACK MY GREATEST  
POSSESSION — HEALTH; MY GREATEST  
ACQUISITION — CONTENTMENT;  
AND MY DEAREST RELATIVE —  
CONFIDENCE.

# THE WITNESS

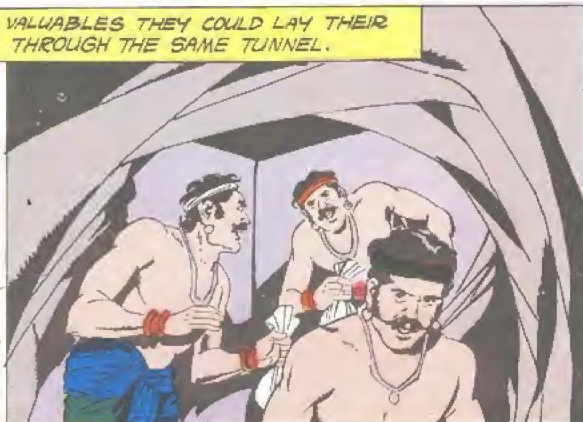


DHANANJAYA, A WEALTHY CITIZEN OF SHRAVASTI, LAY FAST ASLEEP...

...WHEN BURGLARS BROKE INTO HIS HOUSE THROUGH A TUNNEL THEY HAD DUG.



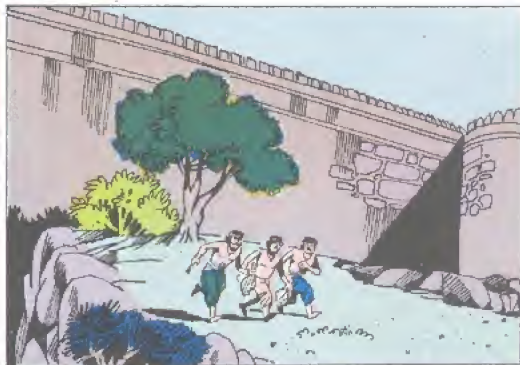
AFTER STEALING WHAT VALUABLES THEY COULD LAY THEIR HANDS ON, THEY LEFT THROUGH THE SAME TUNNEL.



AS SOON AS THEY CLAMBERED OUT AT THE OTHER END, THEY SAW THE KOTWAL.



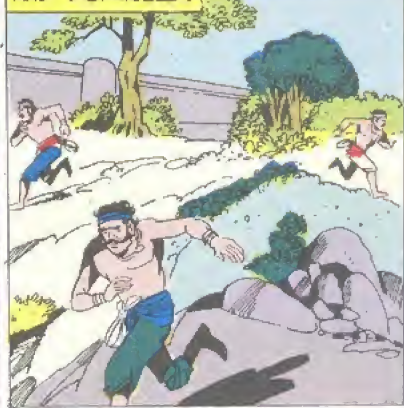




THEY QUICKLY SHARED OUT THE BOOTY...



...TIED THEIR BAGS TO THEIR WAISTS AND DISPERSED.



AS ONE OF THE THIEVES RAN ACROSS A PADDY FIELD...



...HIS BAG FELL OFF...



...BUT HE DID NOT NOTICE IT IN HIS HURRY TO GET AWAY.





THE THIEF MUST HAVE SEEN ME AND DUCKED INTO THIS DRAIN! I'LL GO AFTER HIM.



AND THE KOTWAL LOWERED HIMSELF INTO THE DRAIN.



SOME TIME LATER, A FARMER SET OUT FOR HIS FIELD.



JUST AS HE ENTERED IT, HE SAW BUDDHA.



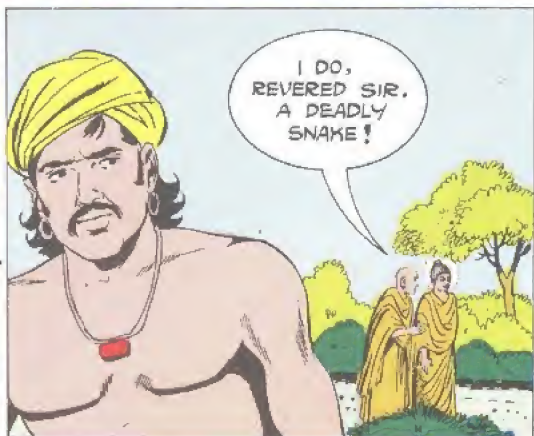
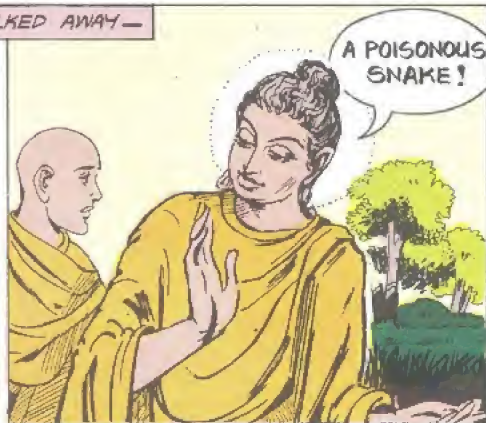
HE APPROACHED BUDDHA...



...AND SALUTED HIM.

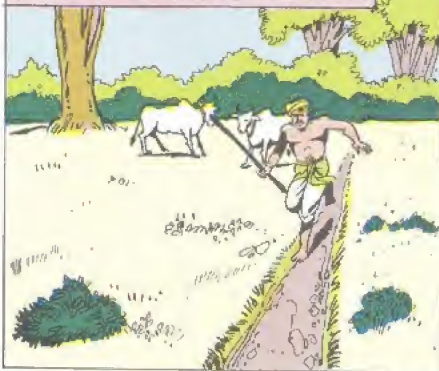


AS HE WALKED AWAY —





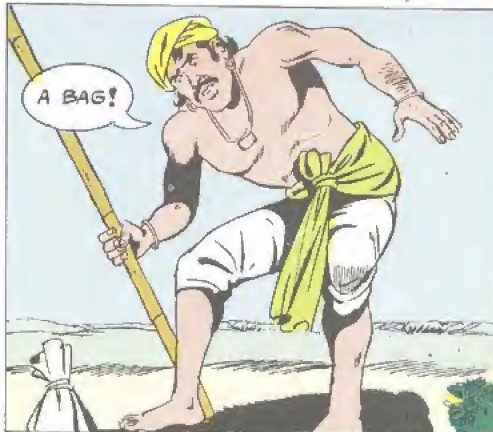
THE FARMER RAN TO THE SPOT.



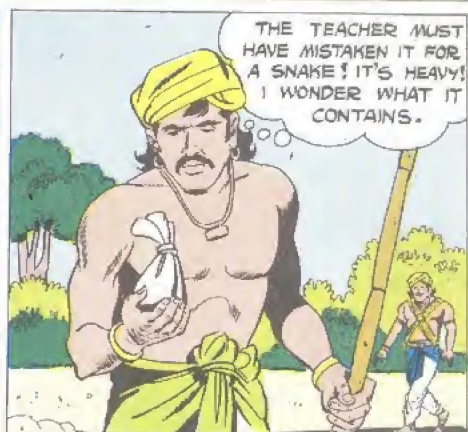
I SEE  
NO SNAKE  
HERE!



A BAG!



THE TEACHER MUST  
HAVE MISTAKEN IT FOR  
A SNAKE! IT'S HEAVY!  
I WONDER WHAT IT  
CONTAINS.



JUST THEN THE KOTWAL APPEARED ON  
THE SCENE.

WHAT'S  
THAT IN YOUR  
HAND?



I'D LIKE TO  
KNOW WHAT'S IN  
THIS BAG.



GOLD ! JUST AS  
I SUSPECTED !



YOU  
THIEF !

THIEF ?  
!...



!...!  
ONLY...

NOT  
A WORD FROM  
YOU !



YOU CAN  
DO ALL THE  
EXPLAINING YOU  
WANT TO THE  
KING.



BUT THE KING DID NOT GIVE HIM  
A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN EITHER.

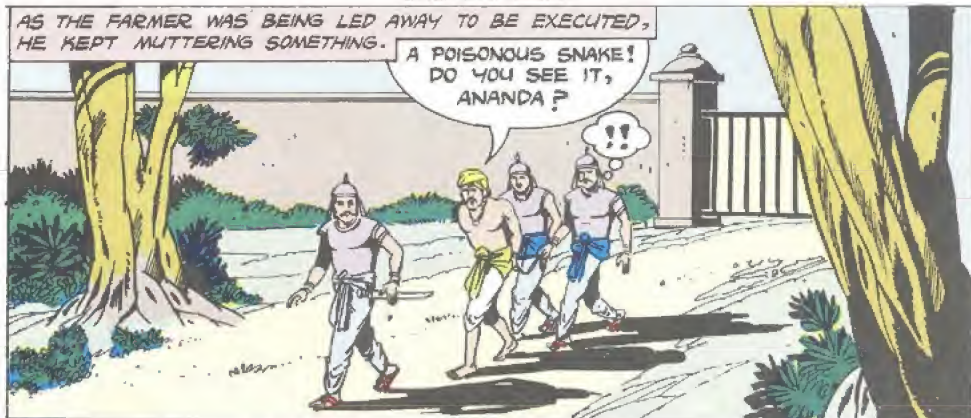
YOU SHALL BE  
PUT TO DEATH  
FOR YOUR  
CRIME.





AS THE FARMER WAS BEING LED AWAY TO BE EXECUTED, HE KEPT MUTTERING SOMETHING.

A POISONOUS SNAKE!  
DO YOU SEE IT,  
ANANDA?

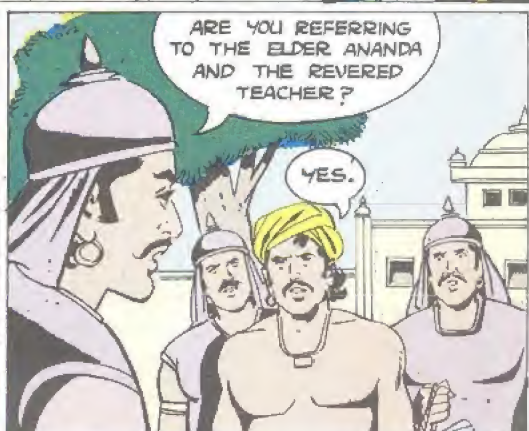


I DO, REVERED  
SIR. A DEADLY  
SNAKE!



ARE YOU REFERRING  
TO THE ELDER ANANDA  
AND THE REVERED  
TEACHER?

YES.



WHY ARE  
YOU REPEATING  
THEIR WORDS?

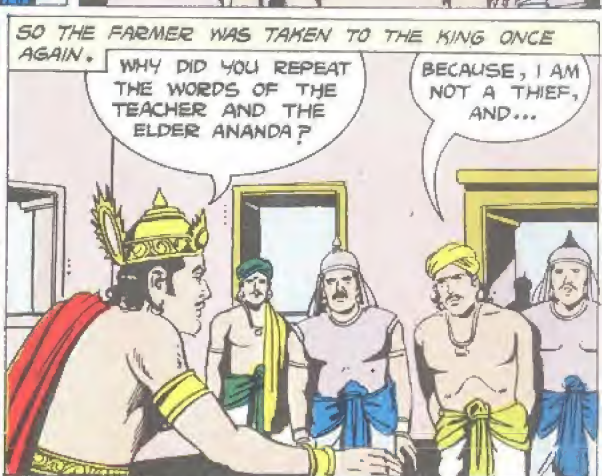
I WILL  
EXPLAIN THIS  
ONLY TO THE  
KING.

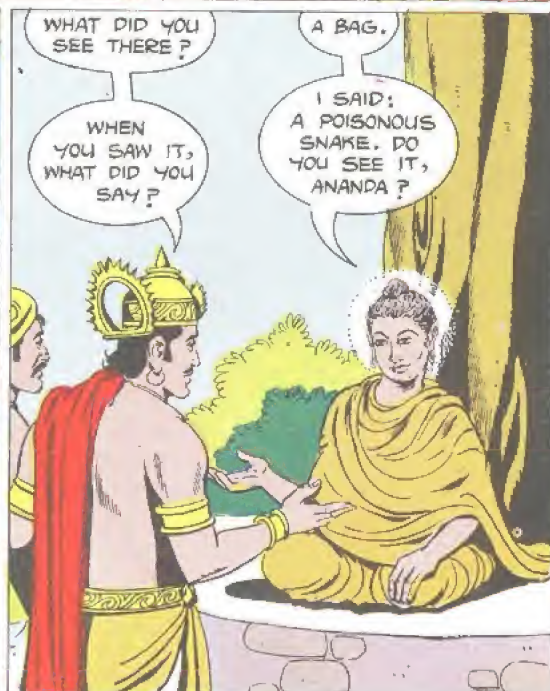


SO THE FARMER WAS TAKEN TO THE KING ONCE  
AGAIN.

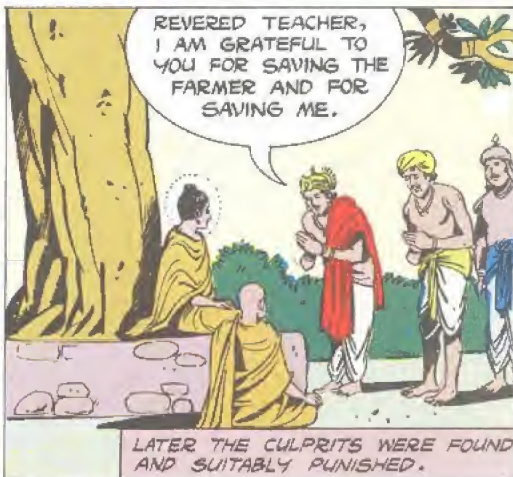
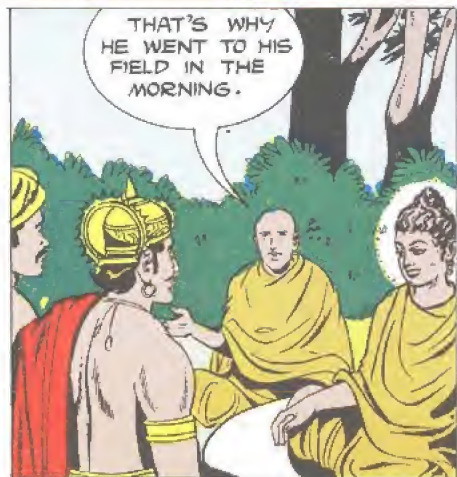
WHY DID YOU REPEAT  
THE WORDS OF THE  
TEACHER AND THE  
ELDER ANANDA?

BECAUSE, I AM  
NOT A THIEF,  
AND...





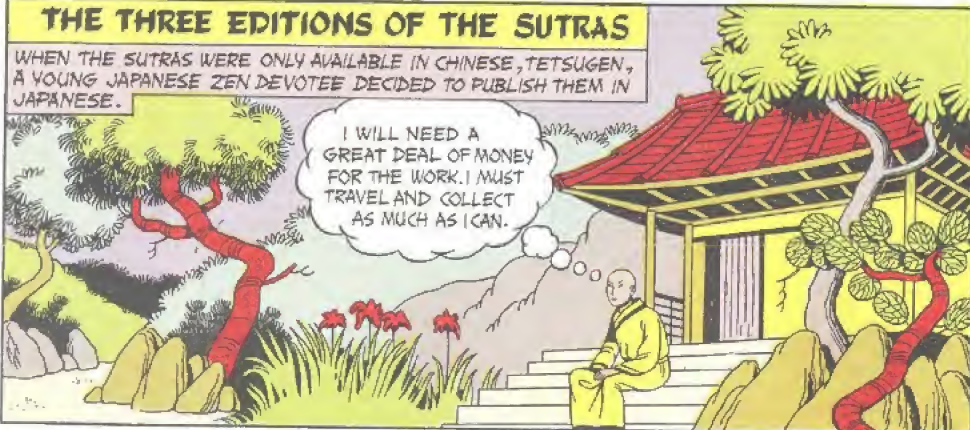




# THE THREE EDITIONS OF THE SUTRAS

WHEN THE SUTRAS WERE ONLY AVAILABLE IN CHINESE, TETSUGEN, A YOUNG JAPANESE ZEN DEVOTEE DECIDED TO PUBLISH THEM IN JAPANESE.

I WILL NEED A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY FOR THE WORK. I MUST TRAVEL AND COLLECT AS MUCH AS I CAN.



HE WANDERED FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE ACCEPTING WHATEVER THE PEOPLE GAVE HIM.

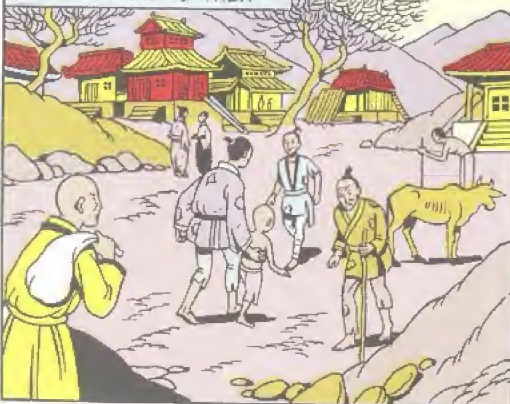


IT TOOK HIM TEN YEARS TO COLLECT THE AMOUNT HE NEEDED FOR THE PROJECT.

AH! NOW I CAN RETURN HOME AND BEGIN WORK.



ON HIS HOMEWARD TREK —



WHAT HAS CAUSED THIS MISERY, BROTHER?

THE RIVER UJI EVER SINCE SHE TOOK AWAY OUR CROPS AND DESTROYED OUR HOMES, IT HAS BEEN LIKE THIS.

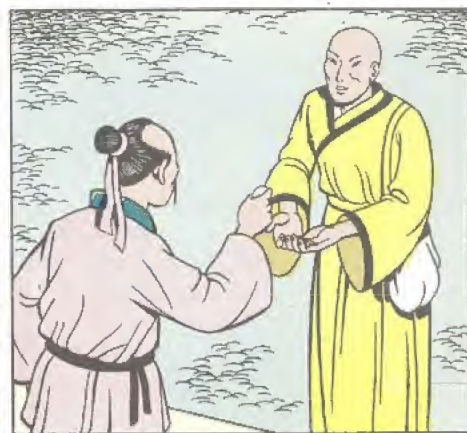
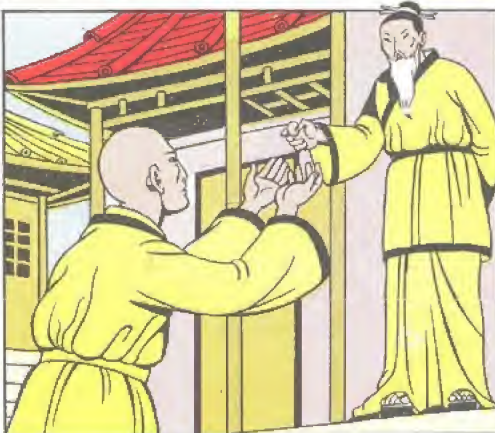




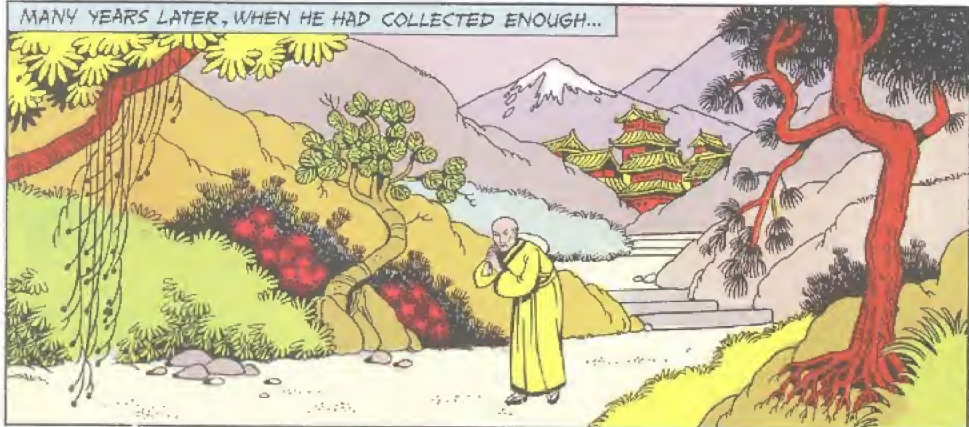
TETSUGEN DIPPED HIS HAND INTO HIS SACK AND —



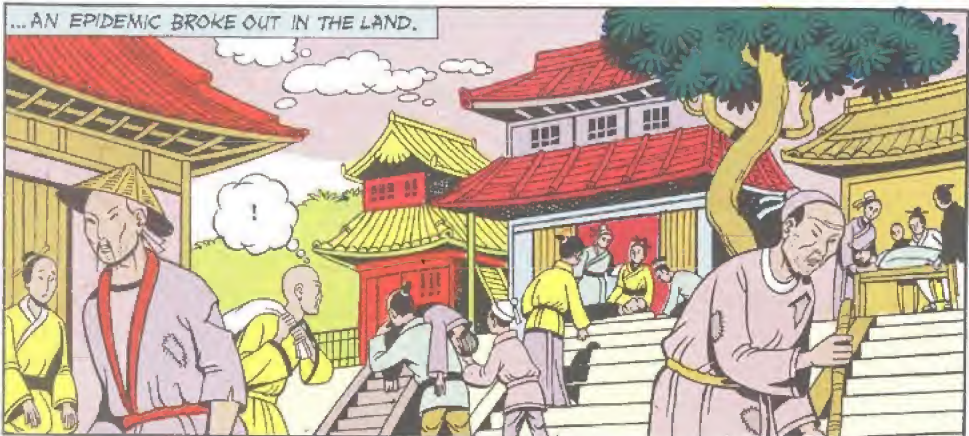
AND SO, IN ONE SINGLE DAY, TETSUGEN DISTRIBUTED THE WEALTH THAT HE HAD TAKEN A WHOLE DECADE TO COLLECT.



MANY YEARS LATER, WHEN HE HAD COLLECTED ENOUGH...



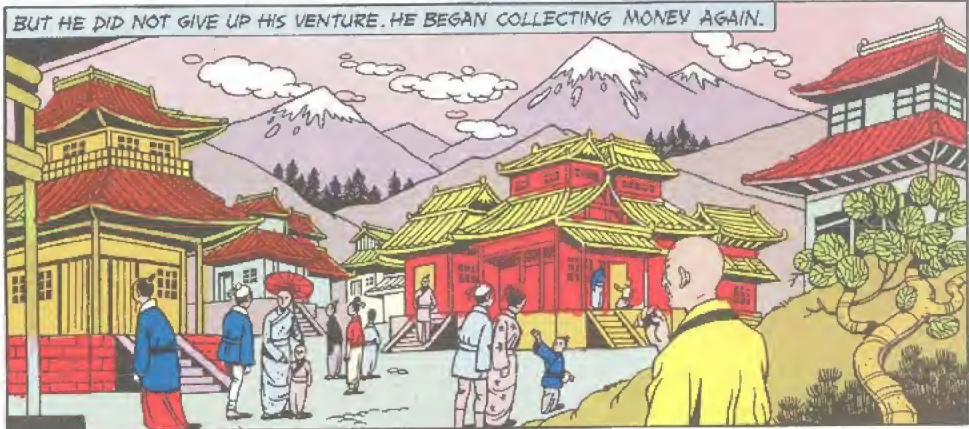
...AN EPIDEMIC BROKE OUT IN THE LAND.



AND ONCE AGAIN TETSUGEN DISTRIBUTED THE AMOUNT.



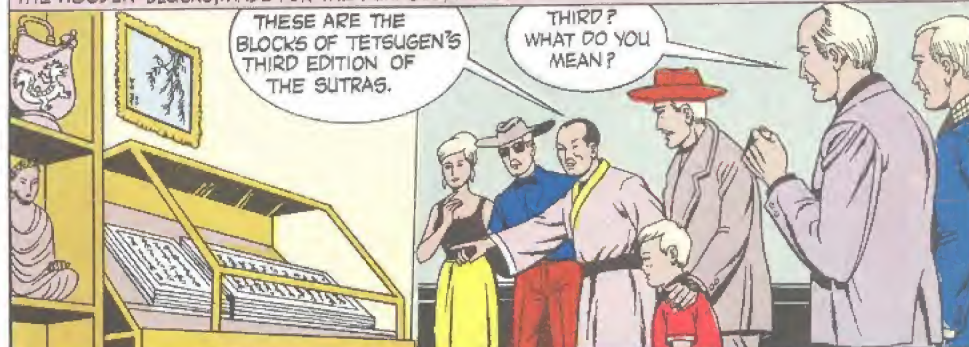
BUT HE DID NOT GIVE UP HIS VENTURE. HE BEGAN COLLECTING MONEY AGAIN.



AND TWENTY YEARS LATER HIS DREAM OF PRINTING THE SUTRAS IN JAPANESE CHARACTERS CAME TRUE.



THE WOODEN BLOCKS, MADE FOR THE PURPOSE, CAN BE SEEN TO THIS DAY IN THE OKAKU MONASTERY\*.



TO THE JAPANESE, TETSUGEN'S ACTS, OF FREELY DISTRIBUTING TO THE NEEDY THE MONEY HE HAD SO LABORIOUSLY COLLECTED, ARE IN THEMSELVES SUTRAS AND FAR SURPASS THE LAST, HIS PRINTED WORK.

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# THE MANY MISADVENTURES OF MONTU, THE MAHAKID



Some heroes are brave. Some are cunning. But some are like you and me.



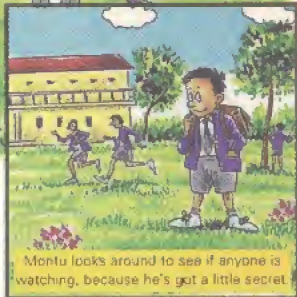
Oh God, I can't find my cycle.



Just then...

Stop! Stop!

He sees 2 men hurrying away.



Montu looks around to see if anyone is watching, because he's got a little secret.



He pops his favourite Maha Lacto into his mouth.



Montu is now the Mahakid!!



He runs after the robbers who took his cycle.



## Win exciting prizes!

1st Prize

Konica Camera  
Junior POP

Video Game.

2nd Prize

3rd Prize

Maha Lacto  
School Bag

Maha Lacto Caps.

Consolation Prizes

Send in your entries by illustrating the rest of the story in 4 panels on a separate sheet of paper with your name, age and address, within ten days.

Enclose 10 Maha Lacto wrappers along with your entries and send to:  
**'The Maha Lacto Mahakid Contest',**  
10, Leith Castle Street,  
Santhome, Chennai-600 028



The best Lacto in town.

LEFT

RIGHT

LEFT

RIGHT



MARCH TO THE STORE AND  
GET THE **SEESAW** STICKER  
THAT COMES FREE WITH TWO  
BIG BABOL MONO-PACKS.



View from the left: Did the egg come before?

View from the right: Or was it the chicken?

Get a 3-D See-Saw sticker free with two mono-packs of Big Babol. All you have to do is shake your head to the left, then to the right. And the image will change in front of your eyes. So do the quick march to your nearest Big Babol dealer & buy two packs of Big Babol.

**Big Babol**

SOFT NON STICKY BUBBLE GUM

Mono-packs without this offer also available. Offer open in select Indian cities till stock lasts.

**PERFETTI**

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